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Sen. Allen rates time at Boy Scout National Jamboree as ‘outstanding’

LANSING – State Sen. Jason Allen, R- Traverse City, considers the time he spent at the 16th Boy Scout National Jamboree in Virginia last week as outstanding.

Allen had an opportunity to visit with scouts from across the 37th Senate District including residents of Kincheloe, Cheboygan, Indian River, Petoskey, Elk Rapids, Charlevoix, Traverse City and towns in between.

“It was great being able to spend time with our northern Michigan scouts, learning about their week and all the activities they have participated in was truly rewarding,” Allen said. “I was impressed by the variety of opportunities the boys had to learn new skills, be it pioneering, rappelling or scuba diving.”

Allen was joined at the event by Rep. Kevin Elsenheimer, R-Bellaire; also an Eagle Scout, as well as two other Scenic Trails Council Eagle Scouts.

Scouts from the Scenic Trails, Hiawathaland, and Lake Huron Area Councils met with Allen for the day on Sunday. The jamboree was attended by more than 40,000 scouts and their leaders.

Allen also attended President George W. Bush’s address to the scouts while at the jamboree. The president spoke to a crowd of more than 75,000 attendees about his time as a Cub Scout and the life affirming aspects of being involved in the Boy Scouts of America.

“President Bush was truly inspiring,” Allen said. “He sent a great message to the young people, emphasizing that they are the future leaders of America, charging them to always remember where they come from, follow their conscience and to stand up for what they believe.”

Daily jamboree activities included a host of outdoor activities and programs. For scouts still working towards their Eagle Scout rank, there was also a midway where scouts could earn merit badges and fulfill advancement requirements.

More than 600,000 Scouts and leaders have participated in the annual event since the first jamboree was held in Washington, D.C. in 1937.

“The Boy Scouts of America is an important institution which has benefited our society for 95 years,” Allen said. “The values of Scouting, the scout oath and law, are important values for America.”

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Editor’s Note: Photos of Sen. Allen with area Scouts will be available for download on Wednesday from the Senate Majority Photowire at: www.senate.mi.gov/gop/photowire/Allen/Allen.htm